THE ETERNALS

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WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™

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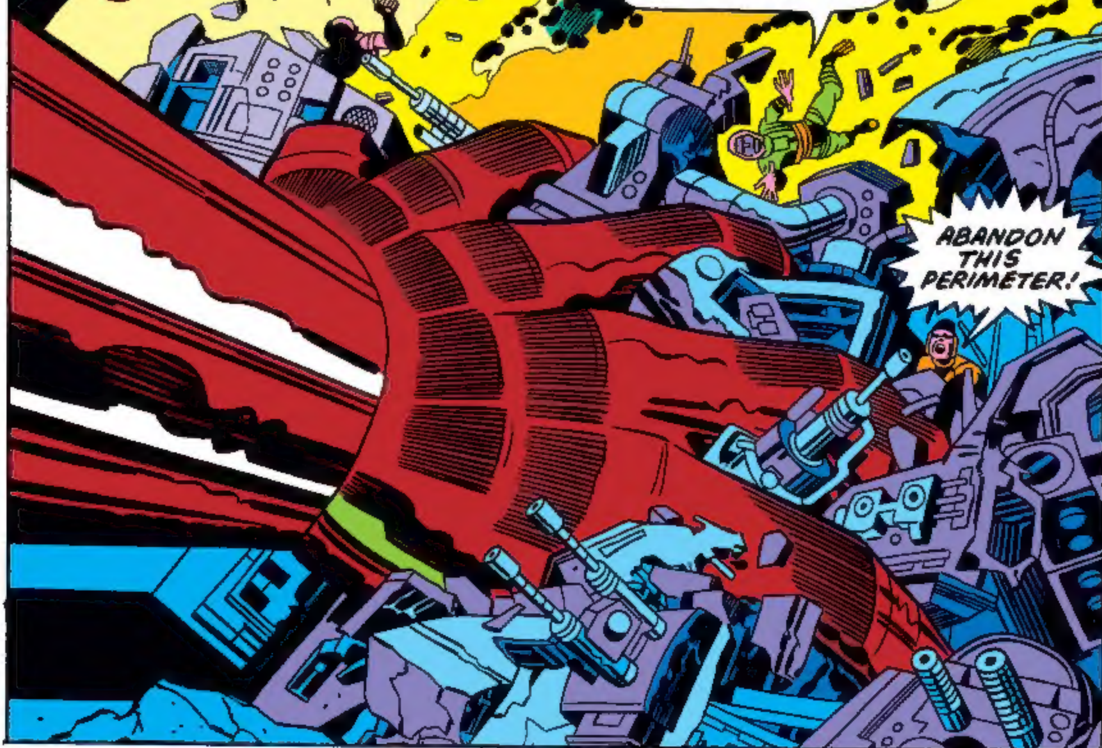
Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

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THE RETURN OF THE **SPACE GODS** OF THE ANCIENT INCAS HAS BROUGHT FROM HIDING TWO SPECIES OF MAN, LONG ALIENATED FROM HUMANS. THE **ETERNALS** ARE IMMORTAL AND WONDROUS IN NATURE ...THE **DEVIANTS** ARE THE UNSTABLE, HOSTILE DEMONS OF THE PAST, AND A SINISTER PRESENCE IN OUR TIMES! **YOU WILL NOW SEE THEM ALL!!** --AND AMONG THEM IS THE **REJECT!** -- HANDSOME!--HOMICIDAL!-- A TOWER OF **HATRED** IN SEARCH OF SOMEONE HE'S NEVER KNOWN! ...

"MOTHER!"



DRIVEN INTO THE ATLANTIC DEPTHS AFTER A **COSMIC** WAR WITH THE SPACE GODS, A ONCE POWERFUL SPECIES OF MAN HAS REBUILT UPON THE ASHES OF ANCIENT LEMURIA. THE **DEVIANTS** HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THAT WAR. THEY'VE SPENT THE AGES BENEATH THE SEA, FORGING **FORMIDABLE** WEAPONS, IN PREPARATION FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR ENEMY FROM SPACE! **NOW, ONE OF THEM HAS COME--A MARAUDING BEAR AMONG SWARMING GNATS!!**

CURSE THE CELESTIAL! HE'S MADE A **RUIN** OF EQUIPMENT THAT COULD STOP A **MIGHTY** TASK FORCE!

POW POW!

THIS IS WEAPON STATION ONE! THE SPACE GOD HAS **BROKEN THROUGH** OUR DEFENSES! WE ARE FORCED TO FALL BACK TO **SECONDARY** POSITIONS!

THESE **SMALLER** WEAPONS ARE USELESS! **USELESS!!**

THANKS TO A **FORCE FIELD,** THE COLLAPSE OF THIS STATION WILL **NOT** BRING THE OCEAN WATERS IN UPON US!

IT COULDN'T KEEP **HIM** OUT! THE SPACE GODS MOVE IN A **MYSTERIOUS** MANNER WHICH **DEFIES** ALL BARRIERS TO THEIR PROGRESS!!

ESON, OF THE FOURTH HOST, CARES LITTLE FOR THE THOUGHTS OR FEARS OF THE DEVIANTS. HE KNOWS FULL WELL THAT THEY CARE LITTLE FOR EACH OTHER. THIS KIND HAS BEEN SPAWNED BEFORE, ON A THOUSAND PLANETS! THEY--LIKE THESE--RAGED IN VAIN WHEN THE FOURTH HOST SET DOWN IN THEIR MIDST FOR THE FIFTY YEAR JUDGEMENT...

WUMM!

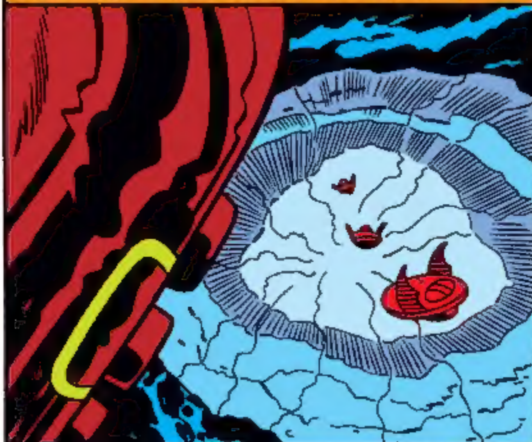
TZUMM!

THAT LEVIATHAN DOESN'T REACT! WE CAN'T BRING HIM DOWN!

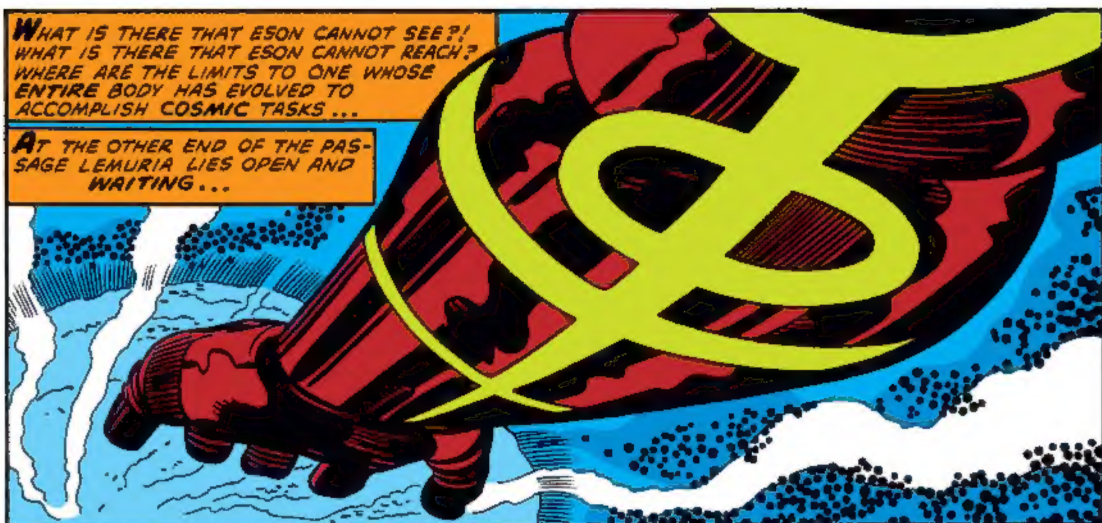
KEEP FIRING!!

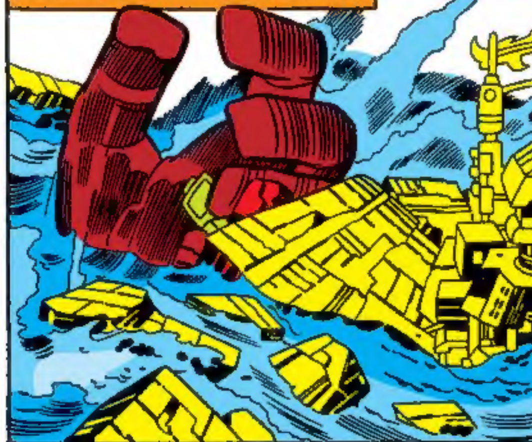
WAM! WAM!

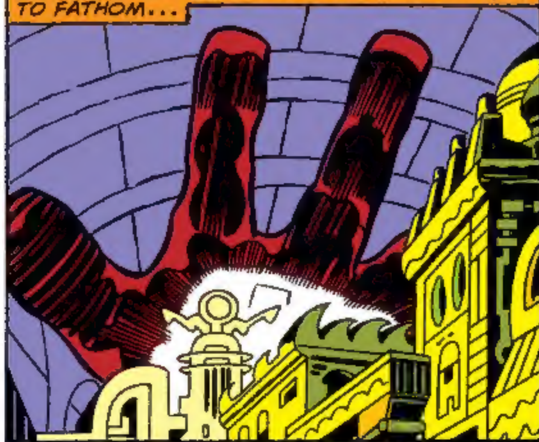
AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE WHICH LEADS TO THE HIDDEN CITY OF THE DEVIANTS, NAVAL WARCRAFT ENGAGE THE CELESTIAL IN A FRUITLESS ATTACK!!


A LONG NATURAL PASSAGE LIES BEFORE ESON. BEYOND IT LIES THE NEW LEMURA, RISEN LIKE AN UGLY PHOENIX. HE WOULD SEE IT AND KNOW ITS DIMENSIONS--IT IS PART OF THE SEA.


FOR, IS NOT THIS SEA AND ALL THAT LIES WITHIN IT, TO SUBMIT TO HIS SCRUTINY? ESON'S CYCLOPEAN HAND MOVES TOWARD THE TUNNEL. IT BEARS IN ITS PALM A UNIVERSAL EYE FROM WHICH NOTHING CAN HIDE...


WHAT IS THERE THAT ESON CANNOT SEE?! WHAT IS THERE THAT ESON CANNOT REACH? WHERE ARE THE LIMITS TO ONE WHOSE ENTIRE BODY HAS EVOLVED TO ACCOMPLISH COSMIC TASKS...
AT THE OTHER END OF THE PASSAGE LEMURIA LIES OPEN AND WAITING...


SUDDENLY, ESON'S HAND BREAKS INTO FULL VIEW OF THE CITY. THE CANAL SYSTEM CRACKS UNDER THE IMPACT, AND ITS WATERS ARE RELEASED IN RACING TIDES...


THE GIANT FINGERS TENSE AND FLEX ABOVE THE CITY, AND SEND WHAT THEY ABSORB THROUGHOUT ESON! THUS HE LEARNS ABOUT LEMURIA, IN A FLASH, WHAT ITS GREATEST MINDS HAVE YET TO FATHOM...

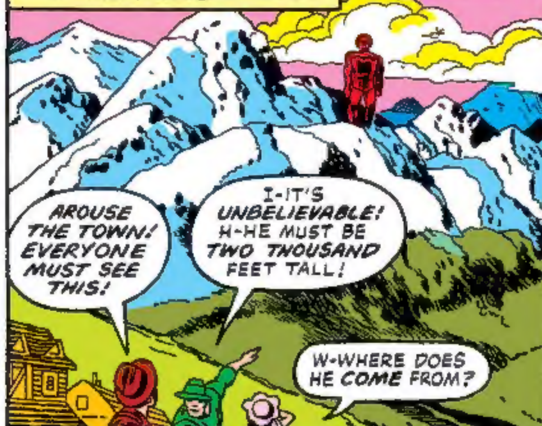

THE GIANT HAND SOON SINKS OUT OF SIGHT, BUT THE EFFECTS OF ITS INVASION TURN THE CITY STREETS INTO SURGING RIVERS...
WE ARE BESET BY A FLOOD! THE CANAL WALLS MUST HAVE BROKEN!
IT WAS A HAND! A GIANT HAND! --TOWERING ABOVE THE CITY LIKE A COLOSSUS!
H-HOW DID THIS HAPPEN!?
HELP! HELP!

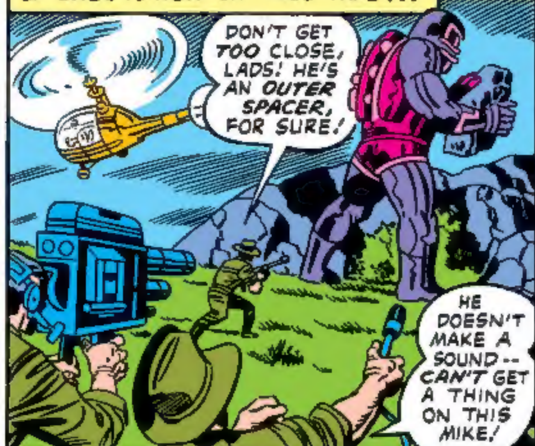

AS THE WATERS BEGIN TO LEVEL OFF, RELIEF VESSELS RUSH SPEEDILY TO THE SCENE OF DAMAGE, BUT THE DEVIANTS ARE IN THE GRIP OF SHOCK AND CHAOS...
DON'T PANIC! DON'T PANIC! THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL!
SCROUNDRELS! THEY LEAVE US TO RESCUE OURSELVES!

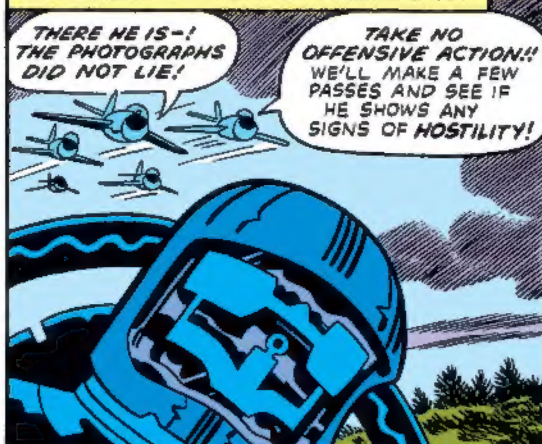

IT IS THE DEVIANT WAY! THE COMMONER IS EXPENDABLE! IT IS THE STRUCTURE AND THOSE WHO RULE IT THAT MUST BE SAVED!
EMERGENCY DIVISION IS DOING ALL IT CAN, COMMISSIONER!
TRY HARDER, DOLT! THE FLOOD HAS REACHED THE PALACE!

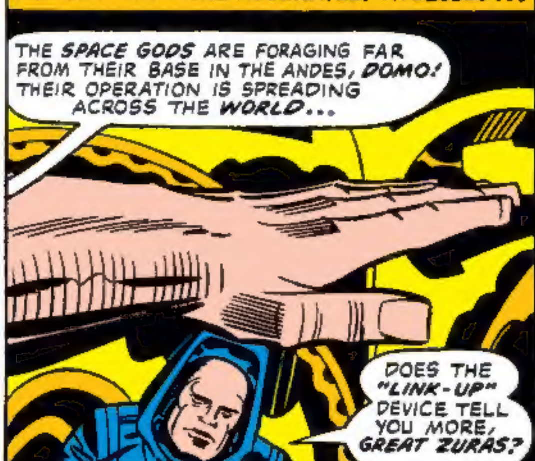

THE GREAT TODE AND HIS ROYAL FAMILY SHALL BE SPARED ANY FEAR OR DISCOMFORT! EVERY POSSIBLE AID HAS BEEN DISPATCHED!
I HOPE YOU INCLUDED ASSAULT TROOPS! THERE'S SOME SORT OF DEVILTRY HAPPENING IN THE ROYAL COMBAT ARENA! AND OUR RULERS ARE THERE, IN ATTENDANCE!


MEANWHILE, ESON, THE CELESTIAL, HAS LEFT LEMURIA AND GLIDES LIKE A MAMMOTH PHANTOM THROUGH THE DEEPS. FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS IT WILL BE HIS PERSONAL DOMAIN...


AS FOR HIS BROTHERS OF THE FOURTH HOST, THEY, TOO, BEGIN TO MAKE THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN. HARGEN LOOMS LIKE A MONUMENT IN THE TYROLEAN ALPS!
AROUSE THE TOWN! EVERYONE MUST SEE THIS!
I-IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! H-HE MUST BE TWO THOUSAND FEET TALL!
W-WHERE DOES HE COME FROM?


TELEVISION CREWS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FLOWN TO THE AUSTRALIAN OUTLANDS. THE GIANT IMAGE OF ONEG IS NOW ON VIDEO TAPE...
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, LADS! HE'S AN OUTER SPACER, FOR SURE!
HE DOESN'T MAKE A SOUND-- CAN'T GET A THING ON THIS MIKE!

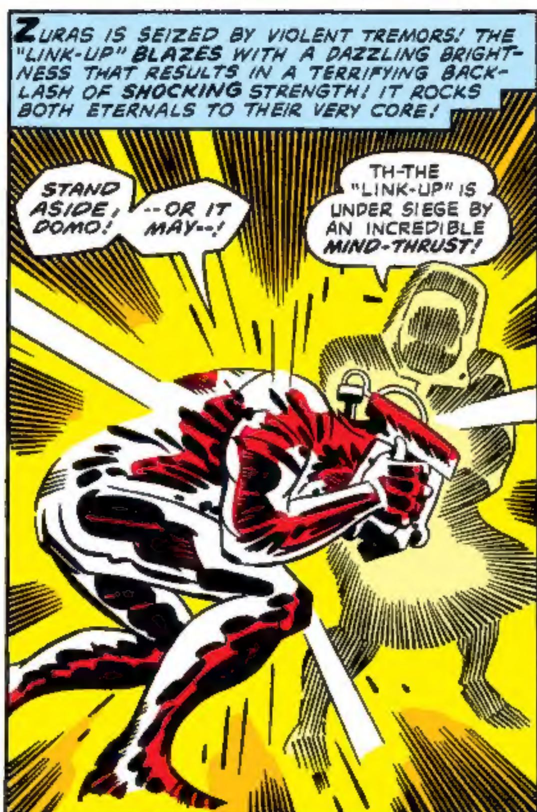

NEZARR IS FOUND BY A "MIG" PATROL IN THE SIBERIAN WILDERNESS. THEY HAVE VERIFIED WHAT HAS STARTLED THE GENERALS IN THE "WAR ROOM" OF THE HIGH COMMAND...
THERE HE IS-! THE PHOTOGRAPHS DID NOT LIE!
TAKE NO OFFENSIVE ACTION!! WE'LL MAKE A FEW PASSES AND SEE IF HE SHOWS ANY SIGNS OF HOSTILITY!


IT IS IN THE MOUNTAIN-TOP CITY OF OLYMPIA, A HOME OF THE ETERNALS, THAT THE CELESTIAL VISITORS ARE MORE ACCURATELY ASSESSED...
THE SPACE GODS ARE FORAGING FAR FROM THEIR BASE IN THE ANDES, DOMO! THEIR OPERATION IS SPREADING ACROSS THE WORLD...
DOES THE "LINK-UP" DEVICE TELL YOU MORE, GREAT ZURAS?


ALTHOUGH THE MINDS OF ETERNALS ARE WONDERS WITHOUT EQUAL, THE "LINK-UP" CAN ENABLE US TO MAKE MORE INTIMATE CONTACT WITH THOSE OF INTER-GALACTIC ORIGIN!
THE CELESTIALS REPRESENT POWER BEYOND MEASURE. THEIR THOUGHTS DO NOT YIELD TO COMMUNICATION EASILY!!


NOW I SHALL REACH OUT TO THEIR VESSEL IN ORBIT ABOVE THE EARTH!
I CAN SEE IT, DOMO-- THE THING IS OF A SIZE TO BLOT OUT THE MOON!


ONCE STIMULATED BY THE "LINK-UP", THE MIND OF THE ELDEST ETERNAL DWARFS ALL OTHERS ON EARTH. IT PENETRATES THE HULL OF THE GARGANTUAN CRAFT--AND MAKES SUDDEN CONTACT!!
GREAT ZURAS! W-WHAT IS IT, SIRE!? YOU L-LOOK STRICKEN!!
NO! NO! NO!


ZURAS IS SEIZED BY VIOLENT TREMORS! THE "LINK-UP" BLAZES WITH A DAZZLING BRIGHTNESS THAT RESULTS IN A TERRIFYING BACKLASH OF SHOCKING STRENGTH! IT ROCKS BOTH ETERNALS TO THEIR VERY CORE!
STAND ASIDE, DOMO!
--OR IT MAY--!
TH-THE "LINK-UP" IS UNDER SIEGE BY AN INCREDIBLE MIND-THRUST!

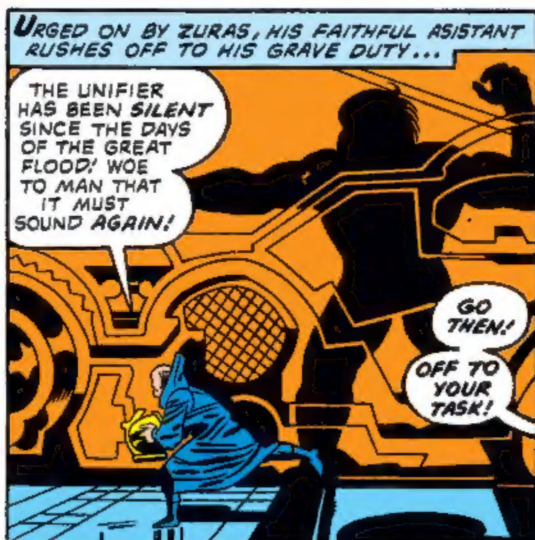

THE BIZARRE REACTION SUDDENLY DIMINISHES IN STRENGTH AND CONTACT IS BROKEN...
I-IT IS DONE, DOMO. I'VE NO FURTHER NEED FOR THE "LINK-UP"!
BUT, YOU MUST TELL ME, SIRE!! WHA-?

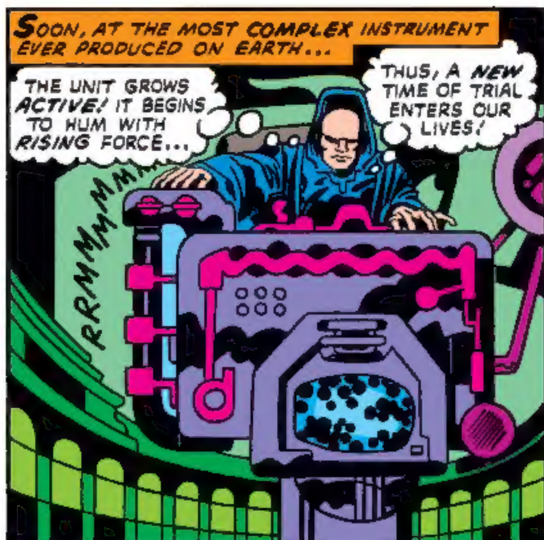

WHAT, INDEED! WHAT HAVE THE DARK AND VAST STRETCHES OF THE UNIVERSE SPAWNED AND SHELTERED AND NURTURED AND GROWN IN THAT UNTHINKABLE TIME BEFORE OUR PLANET WAS FORMED--
GOOD GRACIOUS!

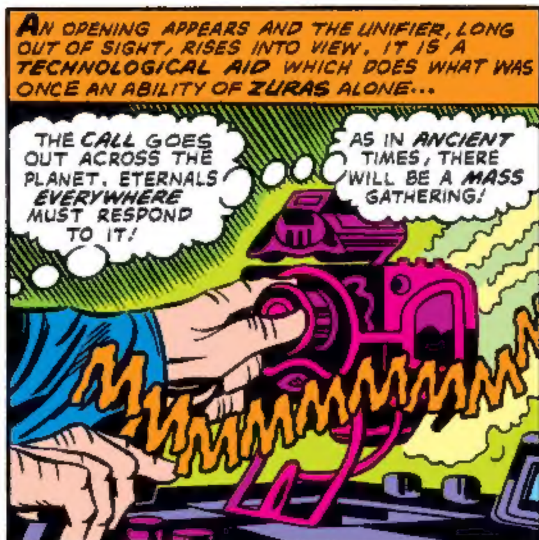

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCEIVE OF A MIND THAT COULD VISIBLY SHAKE THE PRIME ETERNAL! YET, IT IS UP THERE--IN THE CRAFT OF THE SPACE GODS!
HE IS DESIGNATED THE "ONE ABOVE ALL"! MOST LIKELY THE CELESTIAL NAME FOR COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH HOST!

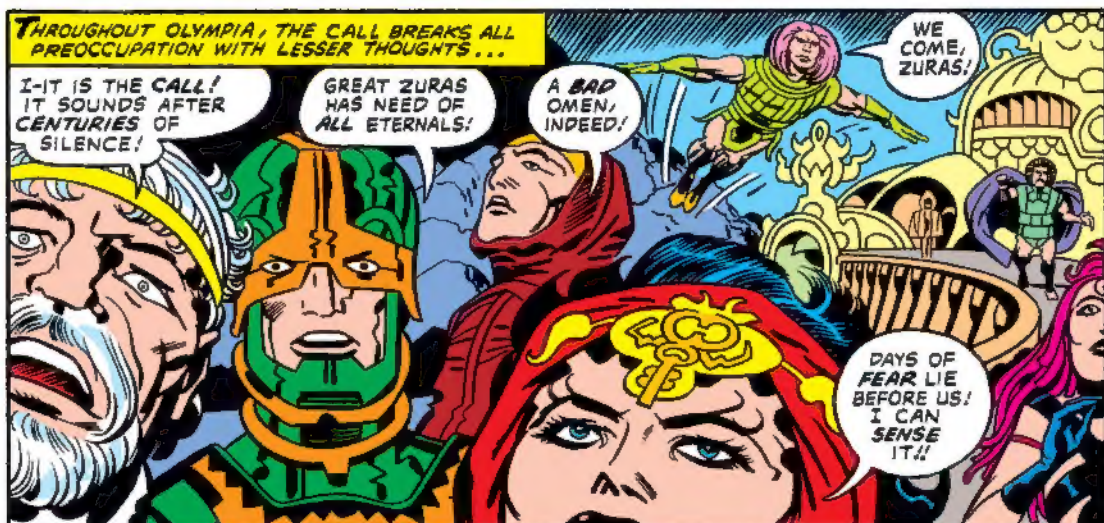

THE MISSION OF THIS HOST IS TO FULFILL WHAT THESE CELESTIALS TERM AS A FIFTY YEAR JUDGMENT, AND WHAT WE ARE WITNESSING NOW IS THE BEGINNING OF THIS WORK!
I TELL YOU, DOMO, THAT THE RESULTS OF THIS MAY NOT BE TO OUR LIKING--


FIFTY YEARS IS BUT A BRIEF MOMENT IN THE LIFE OF AN ETERNAL! IF CATASTROPHE IS IMMINENT, WE MUST ACT WITH ALL DUE HASTE--
--ELSE, WE SHIRK AN ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITY!
THAT MUST NEVER BE SAID OF ETERNALS! ACTIVATE THE UNIFIER!!


URGED ON BY ZURAS, HIS FAITHFUL ASISTANT RUSHES OFF TO HIS GRAVE DUTY...
THE UNIFIER HAS BEEN SILENT SINCE THE DAYS OF THE GREAT FLOOD! WOE TO MAN THAT IT MUST SOUND AGAIN!
GO THEN!
OFF TO YOUR TASK!

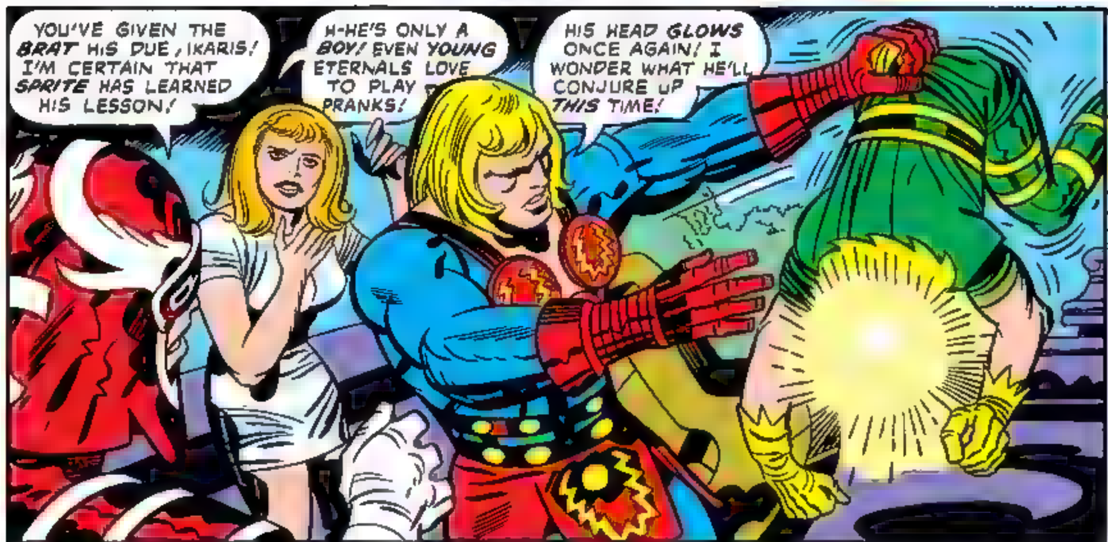

SOON, AT THE MOST COMPLEX INSTRUMENT EVER PRODUCED ON EARTH...
THE UNIT GROWS ACTIVE! IT BEGINS TO HUM WITH RISING FORCE...
THUS, A NEW TIME OF TRIAL ENTERS OUR LIVES!
RRMMMMMMM

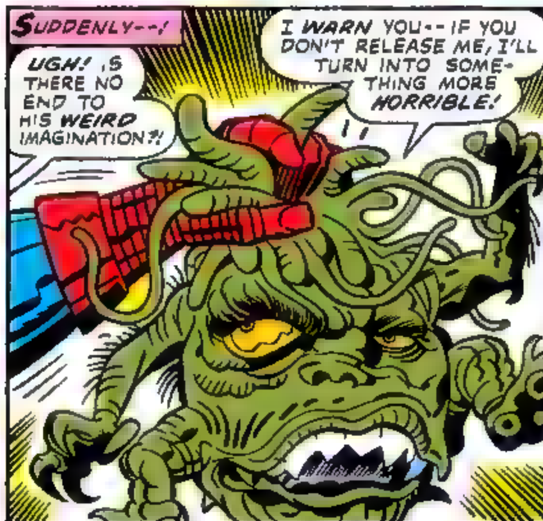

AN OPENING APPEARS AND THE UNIFIER, LONG OUT OF SIGHT, RISES INTO VIEW. IT IS A TECHNOLOGICAL AID WHICH DOES WHAT WAS ONCE AN ABILITY OF ZURAS ALONE...
THE CALL GOES OUT ACROSS THE PLANET. ETERNALS EVERYWHERE MUST RESPOND TO IT!
AS IN ANCIENT TIMES, THERE WILL BE A MASS GATHERING!
MMMMMMMMMMMMM


THROUGHOUT OLYMPIA, THE CALL BREAKS ALL PREOCCUPATION WITH LESSER THOUGHTS...
I-IT IS THE CALL! IT SOUNDS AFTER CENTURIES OF SILENCE!
GREAT ZURAS HAS NEED OF ALL ETERNALS!
A BAD OMEN, INDEED!
WE COME, ZURAS!
DAYS OF FEAR LIE BEFORE US! I CAN SENSE IT!!

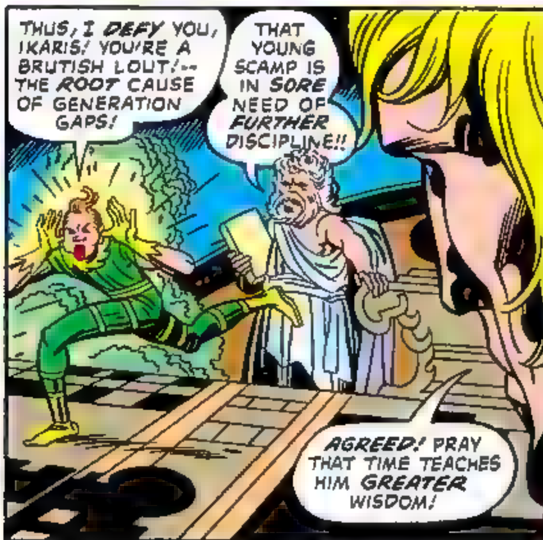

THE CALL IS ALSO HEARD BY THOSE NEWLY RETURNED IN OLYMPIA...
TO THE ALERT, IKARIS! OPEN YOUR MIND TO MORE IMPORTANT CHANNELS!
YES, IKARIS! DON'T SPANK HIM ANYMORE!
THAT'S NOT WHAT MAKARRI MEANT, MARGO.

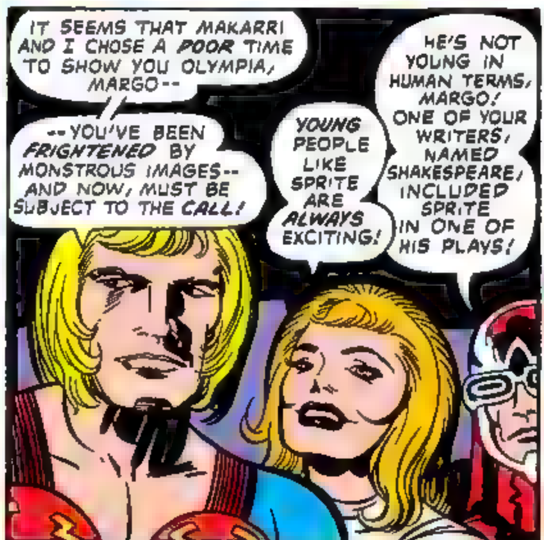

HE HEARS THE CALL AS DO I! WHAT A PITY THAT IT SOUNDS AT SUCH A GRATIFYING MOMENT!
GRATIFYING FOR YOU-- OPPORTUNE FOR ME!!

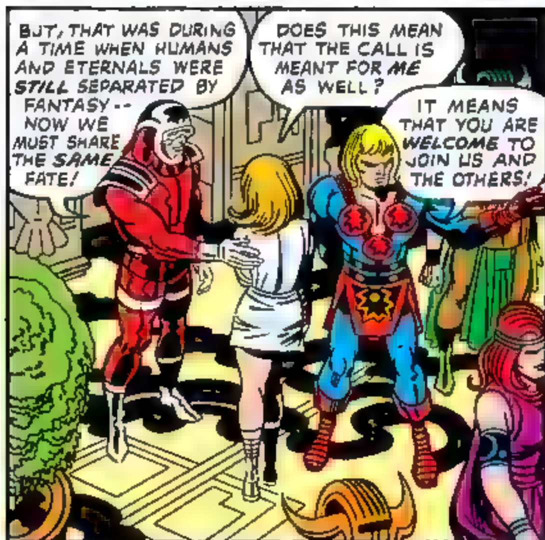
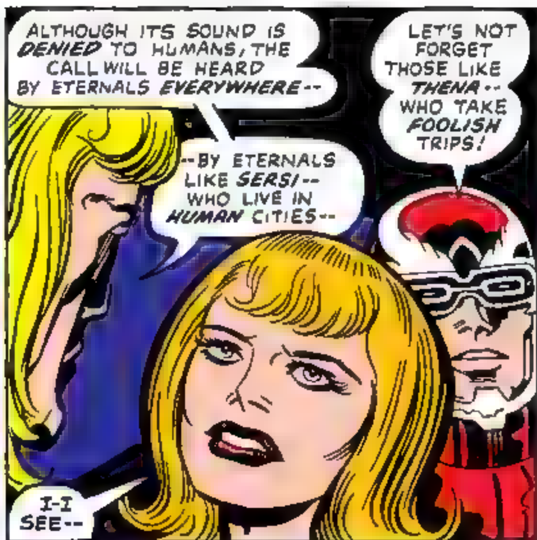

YOU'VE GIVEN THE BRAT HIS DUE, IKARIS! I'M CERTAIN THAT SPRITE HAS LEARNED HIS LESSON!
H-HE'S ONLY A BOY! EVEN YOUNG ETERNALS LOVE TO PLAY PRANKS!
HIS HEAD GLOWS ONCE AGAIN! I WONDER WHAT HE'LL CONJURE UP THIS TIME!

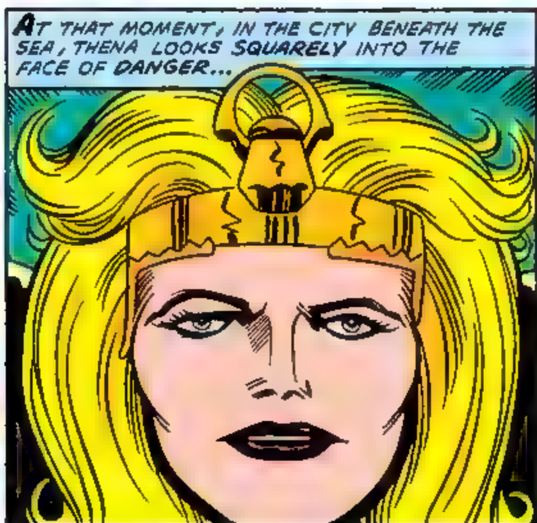
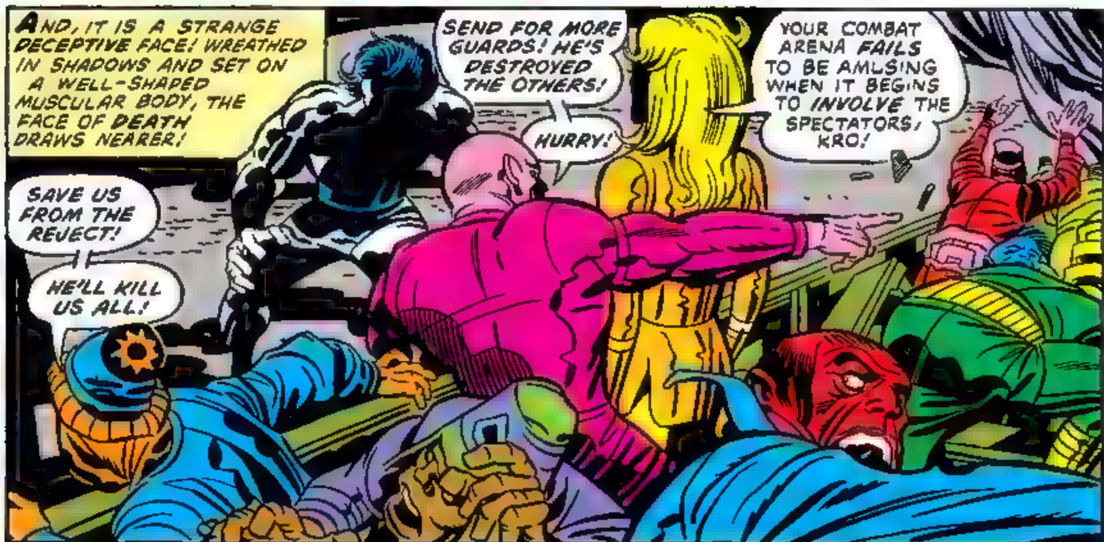

SUDDENLY--!
UGH! IS THERE NO END TO HIS WEIRD IMAGINATION?!
I WARN YOU-- IF YOU DON'T RELEASE ME, I'LL TURN INTO SOMETHING MORE HORRIBLE!

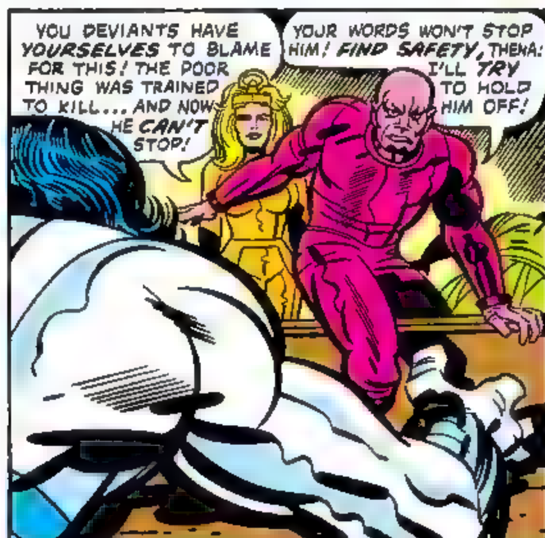

FLY THEN! ANSWER THE CALL AS WE ALL MUST! BUT, HAVE A CARE, IF YOU DECIDE TO HARASS IKARIS AND HIS FRIENDS AT SOME OTHER TIME!
FEAR NOT! I SHALL REMEMBER THIS INDIGNITY!


THUS, I DEFY YOU, IKARIS! YOU'RE A BRUTISH LOUT!-- THE ROOT CAUSE OF GENERATION GAPS!
THAT YOUNG SCAMP IS IN SORE NEED OF FURTHER DISCIPLINE!!
AGREED! PRAY THAT TIME TEACHES HIM GREATER WISDOM!

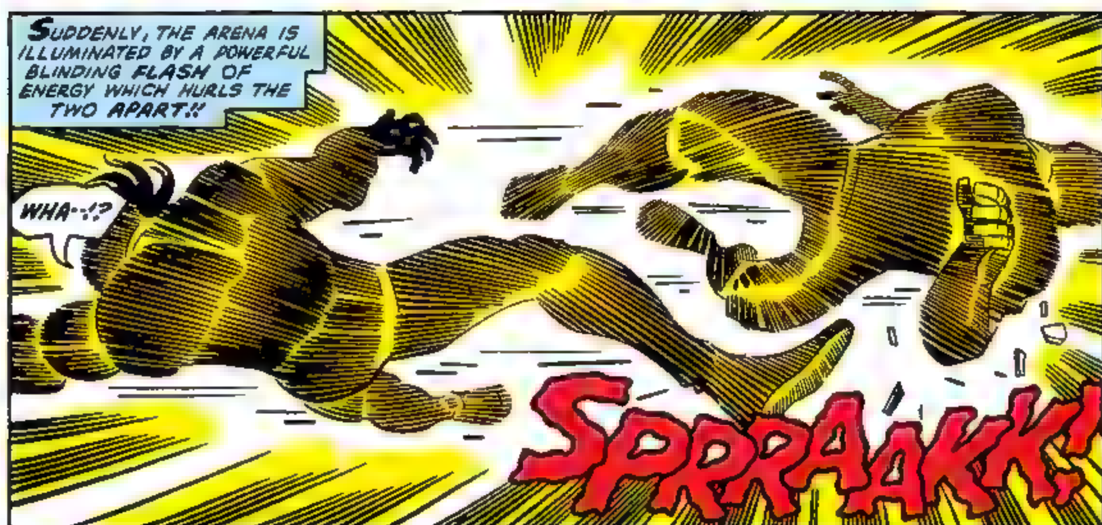

IT SEEMS THAT MAKARRI AND I CHOSE A POOR TIME TO SHOW YOU OLYMPIA, MARGO--
--YOU'VE BEEN FRIGHTENED BY MONSTROUS IMAGES-- AND NOW, MUST BE SUBJECT TO THE CALL!
YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE SPRITE ARE ALWAYS EXCITING!
HE'S NOT YOUNG IN HUMAN TERMS, MARGO! ONE OF YOUR WRITERS, NAMED SHAKESPEARE, INCLUDED SPRITE IN ONE OF HIS PLAYS!


BUT, THAT WAS DURING A TIME WHEN HUMANS AND ETERNALS WERE STILL SEPARATED BY FANTASY -- NOW WE MUST SHARE THE SAME FATE!
DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE CALL IS MEANT FOR ME AS WELL?
IT MEANS THAT YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US AND THE OTHERS!

ALTHOUGH ITS SOUND IS DENIED TO HUMANS, THE CALL WILL BE HEARD BY ETERNALS EVERYWHERE --
--BY ETERNALS LIKE SERSI -- WHO LIVE IN HUMAN CITIES --
LET'S NOT FORGET THOSE LIKE THENA -- WHO TAKE FOOLISH TRIPS!
I-I SEE--

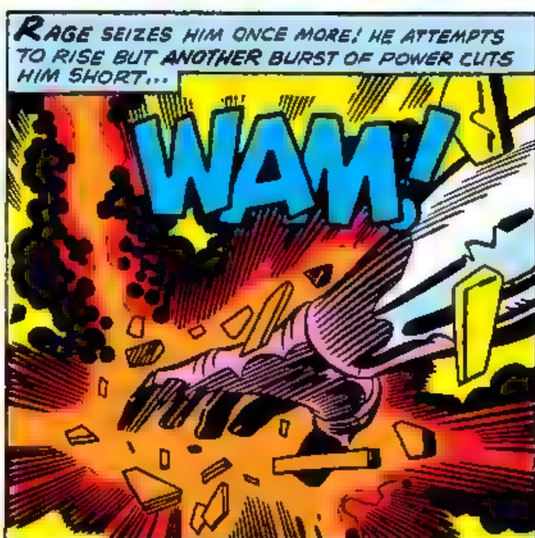
SOMEHOW, THE STRANGE FASCINATION THAT LURES HER TO KRO, THE DEVIANT GENERAL, HAS BROUGHT HER MISFORTUNE IN AGES PAST!
SHE IS WITH HIM NOW, AMONG THE DEVIANTS! I WONDER HOW SHE FARES?

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE CITY BENEATH THE SEA, THENA LOOKS SQUARELY INTO THE FACE OF DANGER...

AND, IT IS A STRANGE DECEPTIVE FACE! WREATHED IN SHADOWS AND SET ON A WELL-SHAPED MUSCULAR BODY, THE FACE OF DEATH DRAWS NEARER!
SEND FOR MORE GUARDS! HE'S DESTROYED THE OTHERS!
HURRY!
YOUR COMBAT ARENA FAILS TO BE AMUSING WHEN IT BEGINS TO INVOLVE THE SPECTATORS, KRO!
SAVE US FROM THE REJECT!
HE'LL KILL US ALL!


YOU DEVIANTS HAVE YOURSELVES TO BLAME FOR THIS! THE POOR THING WAS TRAINED TO KILL... AND NOW HE CAN'T STOP!
YOUR WORDS WON'T STOP HIM! FIND SAFETY, THENA: I'LL TRY TO HOLD HIM OFF!


KRO'S BRAVE GESTURE IS NEVER COMPLETED. THE REJECT IS UPON HIM WITH UNCANNY SWIFTNESS...
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU ALL!
UGH!

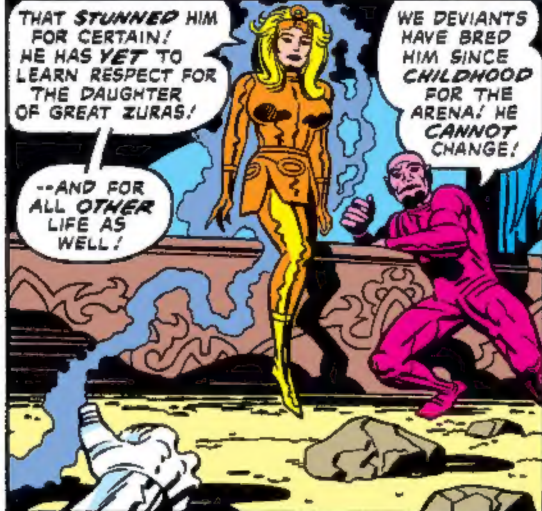

SUDDENLY, THE ARENA IS ILLUMINATED BY A POWERFUL BLINDING FLASH OF ENERGY WHICH HURLS THE TWO APART!!
WHA--!?
SPRRAAKK!


THE REJECT LIES SHAKEN AND PUZZLED BY THIS UNEXPECTED RESISTANCE! HIS INSTINCTS TELL HIM THAT THE FEMALE IS THE CAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED! FROM HIS VERY FIRST GLIMPSE OF HER AMONG THE ASSEMBLAGE OF DEVIANTS, HE HAS SENSED A HIDDEN STRENGTH BEHIND HER COOL SELF-ASSURANCE!

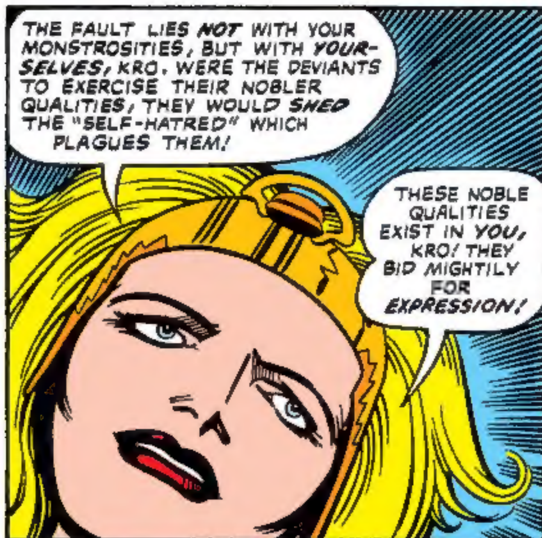

RAGE SEIZES HIM ONCE MORE! HE ATTEMPTS TO RISE BUT ANOTHER BURST OF POWER CUTS HIM SHORT...
WAM!


THE REJECT GROWS LIVID WITH ANGER! A SAVAGE SNARL ESCAPES HIS LIPS! HE LEAPS LIKE A TIGER AT THE FEMALE WHO DEFIES THE ONSLAUGHT OF THIS UNBEATEN VETERAN OF THE ARENA...


THEN, HE RUNS HEADLONG INTO THE STRONGEST OF THE ENERGY BLASTS!
FFTTAAAMM!

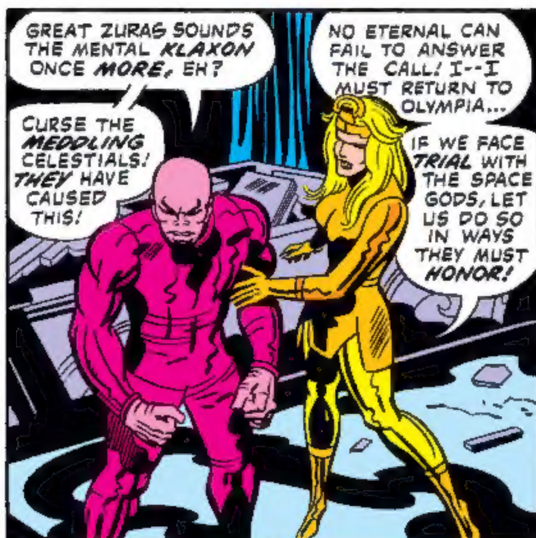

THAT STUNNED HIM FOR CERTAIN! HE HAS YET TO LEARN RESPECT FOR THE DAUGHTER OF GREAT ZURAS!
--AND FOR ALL OTHER LIFE AS WELL!
WE DEVIANTS HAVE BRED HIM SINCE CHILDHOOD FOR THE ARENA! HE CANNOT CHANGE!


AND SO YOU WOULD DESTROY HIM! WHAT A CRUEL FATE FOR ONE OF TENDER YEARS AND FAIR VISAGE!
IT'S HIS ONE VIRTUE! HE IS LIVING PROOF THE DEVIANT GENE HAS FINALLY STOPPED PRODUCING MONSTROSITIES!


THE FAULT LIES NOT WITH YOUR MONSTROSITIES, BUT WITH YOURSELVES, KRO. WERE THE DEVIANTS TO EXERCISE THEIR NOBLER QUALITIES, THEY WOULD SHED THE "SELF-HATRED" WHICH PLAGUES THEM!
THESE NOBLE QUALITIES EXIST IN YOU, KRO! THEY BID MIGHTILY FOR EXPRESSION!


PERHAPS SO, THENA! PERHAPS, WHEN I REACH FOR YOUR --APPROVAL-- I-I FIND THESE THINGS YOU SPEAK OF--
LET THE SPACE GODS EMPTY THIS WORLD-- AND LEAVE BUT YOU AND I!
THAT'S A POSSIBILITY! THE CELESTIALS GROW MORE ACTIVE! THUS, I MUST LEAVE, KRO!

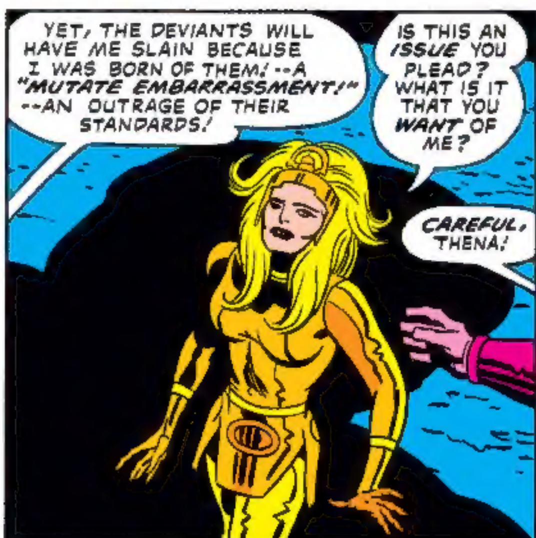

NO, THENA -- STAY! WE NEED TIME! IF WE PART THIS MOMENT -- WE MAY LOSE EACH OTHER FOREVER!
TIME HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR HANDS --! I HAVE HEARD THE CALL, KRO!

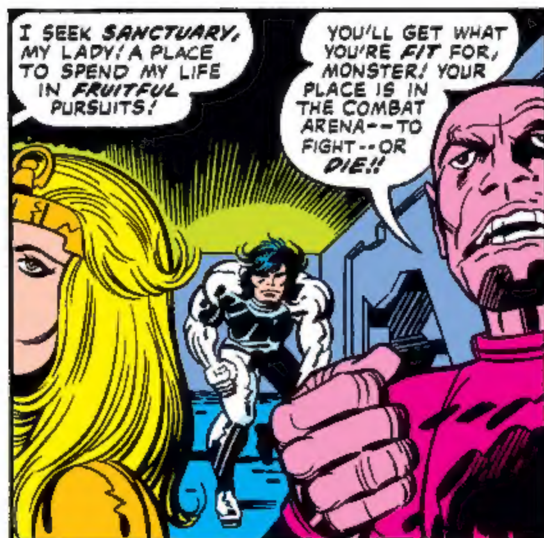

GREAT ZURAS SOUNDS THE MENTAL KLAXON ONCE MORE, EH?
CURSE THE MEDDLING CELESTIALS! THEY HAVE CAUSED THIS!
NO ETERNAL CAN FAIL TO ANSWER THE CALL! I--I MUST RETURN TO OLYMPIA...
IF WE FACE TRIAL WITH THE SPACE GODS, LET US DO SO IN WAYS THEY MUST HONOR!


HAHAHAHAH--! NO INSTRUMENT WAS EVER MADE THAT COULD FIND HONOR AMONG THE DEVIANTS! HAHAHAH!!
GREAT ZURAS!
WHA--!?

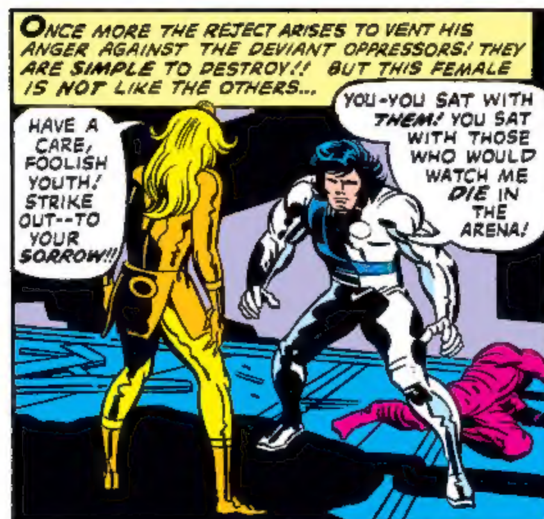

IT'S THE MONSTER CALLED KARKAS!
I THOUGHT HIM TO BE SLAIN IN COMBAT WITH THE REJECT!
I SUFFER FROM DEEP WOUNDS, KRO! BUT I LIVE! I LIVE TO LAUGH AT LOFTY WORDS SPUN BY THOSE WHO JUDGE OTHERS!


THENA STEPS CLOSE TO KARKAS WITHOUT FEAR...
Y-YOU THINK! YOU FEEL! YOU SPEAK WITH GREAT SENSITIVITY!
I-I FIND THIS AMAZING IN ONE SO -- DIFFERENT!
THANK YOU, MY LADY -- FOR NOT CALLING ME -- MONSTER!


YET, THE DEVIANTS WILL HAVE ME SLAIN BECAUSE I WAS BORN OF THEM! --A "MUTATE EMBARRASSMENT!" --AN OUTRAGE OF THEIR STANDARDS!
IS THIS AN ISSUE YOU PLEAD? WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT OF ME?
CAREFUL, THENA!


I SEEK SANCTUARY, MY LADY! A PLACE TO SPEND MY LIFE IN FRUITFUL PURSUITS!
YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU'RE FIT FOR, MONSTER! YOUR PLACE IS IN THE COMBAT ARENA--TO FIGHT--OR DIE!!


KRAK!


ONCE MORE THE REJECT ARISES TO VENT HIS ANGER AGAINST THE DEVIANT OPPRESSORS! THEY ARE SIMPLE TO DESTROY!! BUT THIS FEMALE IS NOT LIKE THE OTHERS...
YOU-YOU SAT WITH THEM! YOU SAT WITH THOSE WHO WOULD WATCH ME DIE IN THE ARENA!
HAVE A CARE, FOOLISH YOUTH! STRIKE OUT--TO YOUR SORROW!!

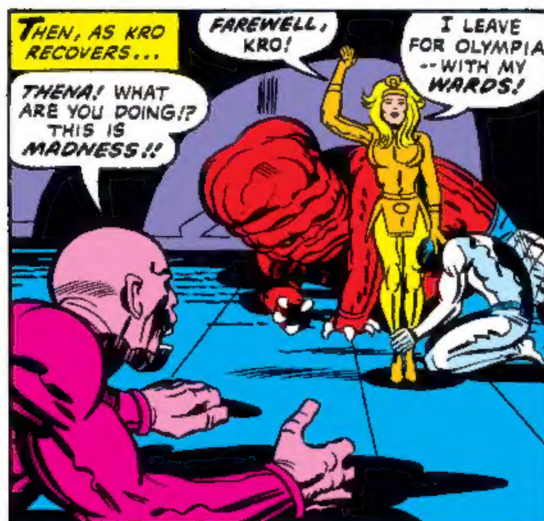

THE REJECT BOILS WITH THE KILLING FRENZY. YET, HE IS WARY OF THENA'S POWER--AND WHAT IS MOST FRUSTRATING TO HIM IS THE EVIDENT COMPASSION REFLECTED IN HER EYES. IT IS YET ANOTHER POWER THAT STAYS HIS CLENCHING FINGERS...
W-WHAT ARE YOU!? W-WHO ARE YOU!?

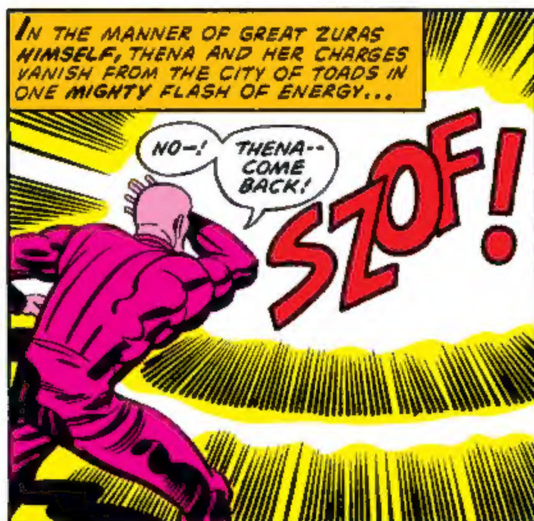

INDECISION ALMOST TEARS THE REJECT ASUNDER. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, HE CANNOT STRIKE DOWN HIS PREY! INSTEAD, HE RECOILS, ALMOST IN FEAR, AS THENA REACHES OUT WITH A TENDER TOUCH...
NO! NO!


SANCTUARY, MY LADY! SANCTUARY FOR THAT POOR CREATURE TOO!
REMEMBER YOUR OWN WORDS! "THE FAULT LIES NOT WITH THE MONSTERS!" WE ARE "MADE!"--NOT "BORN" THIS WAY...
THEN, LET US FIND OUT IF THIS IS SO!


HAHAHA! ETERNALS MUST TAKE THE SAME RISKS THEY OFFER TO THE DEVIANTS! WE ARE NOW YOUR MONSTERS, MY LADY!
I ACCEPT YOU BOTH! I GIVE YOU THE PROTECTION OF OLYMPIA AND THE DAUGHTER OF GREAT ZURAS!


THE REJECT CAN HARDLY BELIEVE WHAT IS HAPPENING. HE IS OFFERED LIFE INSTEAD OF DEATH. HE'S GIVEN AFFECTION FROM AUTHORITY--WHEN IT HAS ALWAYS SHOWN CONTEMPT...
COME! I HAVE GIVEN MY WORD AND SHALL KEEP IT! COME AND LEARN THE WAYS OF THE ETERNALS.
I-I--!


THEN, AS KRO RECOVERS...
THENA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? THIS IS MADNESS!!
FAREWELL, KRO!
I LEAVE FOR OLYMPIA --WITH MY WARDS!


IN THE MANNER OF GREAT ZURAS HIMSELF, THENA AND HER CHARGES VANISH FROM THE CITY OF TOADS IN ONE MIGHTY FLASH OF ENERGY...
NO--!
THENA-- COME BACK!
SZOF!


KRO'S SHOUTS ARE BOOMING ECHOS IN THE EMPTY ARENA. HE IS UNMINDFUL OF THE FLOOD WATERS SEEPING IN FROM ABOVE...
THENA! THENA!!


THE CANAL FLOOD IS INUNDATING THE PALACE OF THE RULING FAMILY, BUT KRO HAS LOST MORE THAN THE REST...
THENA-A-A-A--!


NEXT!!!
ON YOUR MARK! GET SET!! ACTION WITH THE SPACE GODS!
DON'T FAIL TO READ...
THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING